

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0025] in the specification as follows:

[0025] The fixation assembly 10 includes a fixation element 16 having a head portion 18. The head portion 18 is preferably cylindrical, and preferably has a smooth outer surface to facilitate sliding on or in connection with the head portion 18, as will be described below. The head portion 18 can be constructed in other ways or in connection with other components to facilitate sliding of the coupling element with respect to the fixation element 16. The fixation element 16 could be any suitable fixation element for attachment to a bone, for example, a hook or a screw. In preferred embodiments, the fixation element includes a screw fastener having the head portion 18 and a threaded portion 20, and the threads are adapted to be engaged in bone material. The end of the screw fastener opposite the head portion 18 has a tip for insertion into bone, and external screw threads 20 extend between the tip and the head portion 18. ~~and head portion 18.~~ The screw threads 20 have an inner diameter and an outer diameter. The fixation element, including the screw threads 20 and head portion 18, are preferably made of a biologically inert material, such as titanium or stainless steel.